

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 on page 6 as follows:

--In a receiver, the received set of four bits is first de-interleaved ~~260~~ using a second interleaver 250 to decrease the time interval between received bits from the 1/4 rate to the 1/3 rate. Then, diversity combining 260 is performed to reduce the set of four bits on line 251 to a set of three bits on line 261. Time diversity gain is exploited to combat fast fading channels. Any diversity technique, such as, selection diversity, equal gain diversity, or maximum MRC diversity, can be used for identically transmitted bits.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 21 on page 6 as follows:

-- The invention provides at least two advantages. First, the diversity processing ~~250~~ 260 performs well for fast fading channels because both diversity gain and coding gain are taken into account. Second, standard 1/3 rate turbo codes can be used directly. This reduces the computational complexity when compared with prior art 1/4 turbo coding techniques.--